Chalai was a source of grievance to the Tamilians of the locality. There were about 30,000 people at the place who were Tamilians by birth and there were 300 merchants whose accounts and business correspondence were all in Tamil. So they keenly felt the necessity for a school in which their children could be educated through their mother tongue. There was no need for him to dilate on the subject as the necessity for imparting even Secondary education through the Vernaculars had been widely acknowledged. The school, if opened, would also be useful to the pupils of other communities who, for lack of knowledge in Tamil, did not direct their activities towards trade. He, therefore, urged the need for opening a Tamil Higher Grade Elementary School at Chalai.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

118. Desirability of granting full salary grants to village schools and the expediency of having combined lower grade elementary schools with female teachers under the supervision of the Inspectresses.

Mr. C. V. Kunjuraman (Member, Nominated) made the following two suggestions for the consideration of the Government:—

(1) Full salary grants should be given to aided village schools in view to the spread of Elementary education.

(2) There should be combined Lower Grade Elementary schools with female teachers under the supervision of the Inspectresses.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

119. Public Service Examinations in Travancore.

Mr. S. Natarajaperumal Pillai (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that public service was the most coveted profession aspired to by the educated men in Travancore. The keen competition that attended entrance to service by the overcrowding of candidates gave room for jobbery and favouritism. Public service had been the bone of contention with the various sections of the people and had caused much heart-burning and discord among them. The principle to be followed in the selection of persons should be that the best of the lot should be selected in the interests of good government. When selection was left to the discretion of individual officers, there was a certain probability of undesirable influence being brought to bear on them and the door thrown open for favouritism. By the weakness of an individual officer who might be the head of a department, that department might become a convenient ground of exploitation for unscrupulous and inefficient men. By such method of selection there was every chance of the *morale* of the service being lowered.

In the Member's opinion the best way of selecting the most capable men for the Public Service would be by holding Competetive Examinations which should be the only means of judging the comparative merits of the rival candidates. If the examinations did not allow the educationally backward classes to enter the service, the Government might reserve certain seats for the representatives of those classes. By such method of recruiting the public service, the State would have, in the course of a few years, a set of highly capable, honest, and conscientious public servants. The efficiency of the service would also be guaranteed.

The Member suggested that, for filling up vacancies in the higher ranks of the service in the general administrative branch, a system of Competitive Examinations should be organised and introduced. All appointments in the superior or higher grade, that is, those places carrying a salary of Rs. 100 or more should be made from those who had passed the Competitive Examination. The members of the subordinate service, who had the *general* qualification that might be fixed for the superior service, might also be admitted for the Competitive Examination. A Board of Examiners should be constituted for holding such Examinations.

The Member stated that recruiting to the higher offices from outside ought to be stopped. Seniority of service and ability must be the tests by which

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